High School, Lahainaluna, Maui,
Sandwich Islands, Nov. 11th 1833.

To the Society of
Enquiry on Missions
in the L. Sem. Princeton,
N. J.

Beloved Brethren,

Your letter of July 31st. 1832. was received at the islands in May 1833; and although a letter was forwarded to you by order of the Mission nearly a year ago signed by Mr. Bishop and myself, yet you will probably expect some notice of an answer soon to your last.

It is a little uncertain whether your last letter was intended to be a publick one, that is, designed for the Mission generally, or a private letter to me with the expectation that others would see it, but that I as an individual should answer it. The observations made in a letter sent to you dated Sept. 1830 respecting our future correspondence, and the direction of your last letter to me as an individual led me at first to suppose it a private letter. But from its length, and the fact that the subject matter was interesting to the Mission generally, ~~I was induced to lay~~ and as information was requested which I could not obtain without consulting most of my brethren, I was induced to lay the letter before them at our last General meeting held at Lahaina a few days

after its arrival. It was read therefore to a full meeting, (21 of us) and I was appointed to reply in behalf of the Mission to that part of your letter which relates to the sending of a colony to those islands. Whatever therefore may be said on that subject you may regard as the opinion of the Mission generally as near as I could express it. All other topics mentioned in this letter or in in others that may follow from me may be considered as coming from me as an individual, unless notice is given to the contrary.

You seem to be conscious that an answer to all your questions "will require a long letter." This is true and I set down it as a great work. Owing however, to the great press of business which I now have on hands, you will not expect an answer to your "Questions" by this conveyance. All I propose at present is, to notice the common, class affairs of the Mission — the High School and the subject of a Christian colony to these islands.

Towards the close of your letter you ask, "Is such a letter as this one which you like?" A singular question indeed, but in this case one very much to the point. And the answer will depend on the question whether your letter was designed as a public or private one. A letter filled with Statistics or General news &c. is not the best kind of a public letter to the mission, as most of the individual of the Mission have regular files of News papers, either political or religious or both sent them, besides reports of various Societies &c. &c. from which general news is abu

But as a private letter to me your letter was just such a one as I wanted, for I have few correspondents and take no periodical whatever except the Western Luminary, from Kentucky. To me, therefore, the news part of your letter was interesting & for which please accept my thanks.

+ The state of the Mission is on the whole prosperous, though it might not seem to be so, on a superficial view. It is a matter of regret to us, that mistaken views of the condition of the islands prevail to such an extent as it appears they do. You say in your letter, "We now consider you as almost a christian country." And so in numberless publications, & some of the members of the Board have said as much. We regret this on several accounts. It is not correct in itself; & its influence is injurious both here & at home. Here, the foreigners English & American residents on the islands see their statements (for many are printed) and they know that the nation deserves any other name rather than that of christian. If there be no middle point between gross idolatry and christianity, the ~~nation~~ nation may with propriety be termed christian. But we are not so accustomed to speak. To describe the nation en masse by one word, we should term them Atheists; in the best sense however of the word. They have, it is true, thrown down their idol gods of wood, stone, feathers &c. &c.

but it is as true, that as a nation they have not chosen Jehovah to be their God in any such sense as to constitute them even nominal christians. As nature is said to abhor a vacuum, the people, when their former gods were overthrown by royal authority, stood ready to call Jehovah their god. But they have not knowledge enough to be a christian nation if they would.

For about eight years past there has been a wonderful change, externally at least, among the people of the Sandwich islands. But the change is now perfectly easy to be accounted for. Just as easy as it is to account for the popularity & spread of religion in the days of Constantine the great, or of Clovis king of France; and the reasons are precisely the same. From the time Kaahumanu the Queen Regent began to favour the Missionaries until her death last year, religion continually increased in popularity. Every body, (comparatively speaking) was willing to attend church, in order to be like the Chiefs. And with attention to church there has been a great rush to get into the church. Some of the High Chiefs were among the first to acknowledge the christian religion & embrace it. The others followed after, as they had no other religion and as they had no desire to be singular. It was just as natural for the common people to follow the opinions and practices of the Chiefs as for water to flow down an inclined plane. They did so, & hence are accounts for

several years past have contained statements of the increase of schools — of great congregations attendant on our preaching and of many anxious as we supposed & as the people pretended, to seek the salvation of their souls. And although there has been the utmost caution used in receiving members into the churches, yet the probability is that a great proportion of them are false hearted. Since the death of Kaahumanu a year & a half ago, the true state of things has gradually begun to appear. ~~Since the head is gone~~

The common native schools may be said to be done, in other words, where they are in existence at all, they are so inefficient as not to be deserving of the name. Our churches do not ~~naturally~~ necessarily fall to pieces & soon, as they are under the immediate care of pastors who are warning them of the danger & urging upon them self examination & steadfastness in their profession, yet a number have already fallen. Eleven were excluded at once from the church at Kailua on Hawaii some time ago. Eight are under suspension from the church at ~~this place~~ Lahaina & so of other churches. Our congregations which formerly consisted of thousands are greatly reduced, some however more than others. There is little or no demand for books except bound Testaments & those merely because they are bound books, and larger than any other.

Still, as a Mission we go on at our appropriate work, preaching, teaching, translating &c. and find enough to do. We have been taught not to put our trust in princes. Hereafter, our progress, if any will be real, that is, if any are induced to attend our schools or enter our churches it will not be merely because it is popular or to follow the example of a chief. You will easily understand from these remarks that our progress hitherto has been apparent only, not real, and it applies equally to morality, civilization and religion.

There is, however, no real cause for discouragement nor are we at all discouraged. The change is what might have been expected and was looked for, we only hoped it would not come until more information had been imparted to the people. Church and State are here necessarily & intimately connected, as the majority of the high chiefs, who have unlimited authority & influence over the people, are members of the Church.

The present state of the Nation is anything but prosperous. For a year past or more there has been much irregularity in the proceedings of Government. Sometimes there is an appearance of a more settled state of affairs & at others, everything is in confusion. The

truth is, the government will probably soon pass into other hands. There is no probability that the present set of Chiefs will materially change their policy. The common people are borne down & oppressed with taxes restrictions &c. and being allowed to possess neither real nor personal property, will ere long rebel; or, The foreigners already on the islands & others that may come, (& they are coming in fast.) will be dispersed for their own accommodation to take possession of the islands; or, allured by the great advantages that would accrue from the possession of the islands, some foreign power will take possession of them. However repugnant & abhorrent this may be to our feelings, (and it is really a matter of feeling with us,) still we cannot conceive of any form of government more depressing to industry — more detrimental to morality — in short, more opposed to improvement in the people in every respect than the present. Our only consolation is, that the God of Heaven rules over the nations of the earth and is about to subdue them to himself.

From this subject, I again return to the schools. Ever since the commencement of the mission, there has been a class of schools at the several Missionary stations taught in person by the missionaries. These, by way of distinction have been called select or station schools. For two years past however more attention has been

given by the Mission to these schools. They are therefore still in operation; but on account of the press of other business upon the missionaries — the irregularity of the scholars in attending and above all the want of accommodations in school houses and of suitable books the progress of these schools has been greatly retarded. The mission are however urging them on and it is to be hoped they will eventually be useful.

I ought to remark here that you are probably mistaken in your estimation of the real advance of the people in knowledge.

Our schools have been useful in many things; but from the nature of the case, they have not had that influence which you would suppose they might have. Suppose an Indian should come from Missouri into the inhabited & civilized parts of the United States and attend a common school six weeks, in which time perhaps he would learn his letters, perhaps read a little & perhaps write the alphabet on a slate & then should return as a teacher to his countrymen. What could he teach? And yet he would be better qualified to teach than most of our native teachers have been. Because he would have seen a regular school in operation. Besides it is a fact, there is more mental effort required in learning the English alphabet & to spell in two syllables, than in learning to read tolerably well in Hawaiian. As Hawaiian

schools
here has been a well regulated. This would be obvious
to you by a single glance at a native school house.
Many have attended schools here two, three & four years
without being able to read or perhaps knowing their
letters, though they might have many of them committed
to memory. These native schools however, have
had such a hold of the minds of the people that
when we were convinced that they were nearly worthless,
it has been exceedingly difficult to change their form
or remodel them for the better.

✓ 19:20 2.27. You have enquired that there were multitudes
here who could read tracts & even the Bible if they
had it. Nominally, we estimate the number of readers
at 20,000. By readers however is not meant persons
who can read fluently or even intelligibly, but such as
can by miscalling, repeating & hesitating considerably
get over a sentence & when compared with a blank ig-
norance of letters may be called reading, but if the
meaning they know nothing, that is no part of the ob-
ject. Or if it is, they never fail to veil it in some
mystical shape.

✓ If tracts were now given them gratis probably
not more than one out of a hundred would ever look
at them. If they were sold to them, a great many more
would probably try to read them. When a new book
comes out & they become possessed of it one, instead

of sitting down to find out its meaning, they enquire of the Missionary, "What is it" "What is it about"? & if they do not get a clue to its contents, they seem utterly unable to get it themselves. The truth is, they have not yet learned to think or reflect, or to apply any things they have learned. You will observe, I am speaking of the mass of the people who have attended school. Those who have lived near the Missionary stations & enjoyed greater privileges are some what better informed.

It is proper here to say, we, ~~have~~ as a Mission have been in years last mistaken as to the influence of our schools. We thought or hoped at least they were doing better than we now find they are. We honestly thought the people were making progress in morality & religion as well as literature, but since the departure of the Chief whom they people feared & loved & wished to ~~contest~~ please, we find much of it to be counterfeit.

You will perceive that these statements are very different from those made to you in my former letter. I then supposed I wrote the truth, and it was not this but the truth according to appearance. I now make these statements as truth according to what I have since seen & known. Many facts have come to light within two years past which cause us to estimate the state of the people very different from what we did before.

The Christian community therefore in the U. S. need be in no hurry to provide tracts & bibles for the Sandwich Islanders. There is a previous work to be done. The people must be taught to read intelligibly, that is have the ability to get ideas by reading. When this is done, Bibles & tracts will be useful. At present 50,000 bibles or 50,000 tracts distributed among the people would be throwing away forty nine fiftieths of them.

Before this reaches you, you will have heard of the existence of our High School. It commenced in 1831 under very embarrassing circumstances there having been no provision made for such an institution except a resolution of the mission to have one and the appointment of a Principal. All its objects may be summed up in two; the means of sound knowledge over these & other islands of the Pacific. The qualifying of young men to be teachers of schools & preachers of the gospel of Christ. The study of the scriptures in their original languages will be a fundamental study as soon as the Christian community at home shall furnish the requisite materials. That is, a press & Hebrew & Greek types for printing Grammars & Lexicons &c. The Theology of the school will be the Theology deduced from the Original scriptures.

As yet however, the institution is in its

incipient state. A great deal of labour must be expended before we can say we have commenced. All the books are yet to be made. All the apparatus is yet to be brought from some foreign country. As much, however, has been accomplished as could reasonably have been expected when all the difficulties are taken into the account.

As a history of the origin & progress of the School is in contemplation for the use of the Board & will probably in some shape or other be laid before the public, it will be unnecessary to go into details here. I may say, in a word, should you be disposed to lend your influence it will be in your power to render it great assistance. It may be truly said the wants of the school are many & great.

I come now to your question respecting a colony to these islands. As you refer to this subject a second time at the close of your letter, it is probably one which has excited some interest.

You are probably not aware of the difficulties which we as a mission should be involved should we give you our opinion at all. At our last General Meeting we spent one half day in committee of the whole on the question, "What answer shall we return to the enquiries on the subject of a colony?"

In the consideration of this question, another, respecting residents, was connected with it & both together are subbed in the following, extracted from our Minutes.

Principles to be observed in respect to foreigners emigrating to these islands.

"On the question, 'What principles shall we adopt in respect to foreigners emigrating to these Islands?' the following report was presented & adopted;

That as advice has been requested of this mission as to the expediency of ~~going~~ giving encouragement to a colony from the United States settling at these Islands, to aid indirectly in civilizing the people, and as individuals also have requested light on this subject in relation to their duty; therefore, resolved,

1. That our relation to this people as pastors and teachers, renders it inexpedient for us to give direct advice to any who may be desirous of emigrating to these Islands.

2. That in answer to inquiries made on the subject, information be communicated respecting these Islands, including an account of the soil, productions, & climate; of the state of commerce; of the civil and political affairs of the nation; of the probable reception of a colony by the Chiefs & people, and of the prospect that such a colony would be useful or otherwise: in short, that every facility in

our power be furnished for enabling all who are willing to visit the islands to aid in civilizing the people, to make up their minds understandingly, and act, on their own responsibility, as their judgment shall dictate." &c. &c. The above two resolutions embrace the ground of the whole.

I shall now mention a reason or two <u>why</u> we <u>cannot</u> give you advice on the subject.

1. When the Pioneers of this mission first reached the islands, the Chiefs were told by foreigners then resident among them that if they consented to the residence of the Missionaries on the islands, their lands would soon be gone & the kingdom would soon become ours — that so it had been in America (refering to the catholics of S. America). The natives said, the Missionaries are very few — they have no arms & they have brought their wives &c. To which it was replied; Bye & bye more will come, and afterwards more, — they will want all lands — they have many friends — they too will come & you will lose your lands..... Now, should we whisper a word to the chiefs respecting a colony, the prophecy of our enemies would prove true in part at least & the jealousy of the Chiefs would be excited against us. I ought to remark here, that <u>all</u> the land belongs to the Chiefs, — They know nothing of selling

lands; they give it away to take it again at pleasure.

2. But another reason why we ought to say nothing on this question is, we are particularly forbidden by the Prudential Committee to have anything to do with the political affairs of the nation. The arrival and settlement of a colony at the islands could not be affected without our taking part one side or the other, whether we would or not. Especially if such colony wished to do anything to favour missionary exertions. Such a movement of this nation as that of receiving a colony from a foreign country would be an important one, & one too on the issue of which the Chiefs ought to deliberate well. As they are conscious they have no other friends at hand to whom they can look for advice, they will naturally look to us, & whatever advice we may give, we shall necessarily be engaged in political affairs.

We dare not even now hint the idea to the Chiefs that such a ~~A~~ movement is in contemplation. Should we speak of it favourably, they would ever after look upon us with suspicion. Should we speak of it unfavourably, we of course could give no encouragement to such a plan. You will see, therefore, from these remarks that you are about to place us in delicate circumstances in requesting the information you need.

One thing should be kept in mind, that is, that here is a regular government — that it has its own rights, &

ought to maintain them. They have the clear undisputed right over their own soil, and hence no colony can have a right to any part of it without a previous negotiation in which such right is recognized.

But I proceed now according to our resolutions to lay before you some account of the islands; - that is of the soil, productions, climate, the state of commerce - the civil & political affairs of the nation & the probable reception of a colony.

The number of islands that may be inhabited is eight: two of them small, at present only a few hundred inhabitants each. All of the islands are healthy.

The present population ~~was~~ of all the islands may be estimated at 130,000 souls. The population has been estimated until lately at 180,000.

The land is very fertile where it can be watered. A little attention to the physical geography of the islands will show at once that many things are very different from the same quantity of surface situated on a continent or in a temperate zone. The land rises some time gradually, sometimes suddenly from the sea shore into high mountains. These mountains are generally so high as to intercept the clouds and also the trade winds which are strong breezes blowing from the East. But little rain, therefore, falls on the western or leeward side of the islands, except when the irregular winds

prevail for a month or two in winter. The leward side of the islands, therefore, is apparently barren; but with cultivation & artificial watering much that now appears barren might be made very fertile. Wood both for fuel and for building is found in considerable quantities, but it grows far up in the mountains & for want of roads is difficult to obtain.

Productions. All the tropical fruits might be introduced. They would grow near the sea. As the tillage of the soil might be carried on up the mountains, the fruits of higher latitudes might be introduced even to such as grow in very cold climates. Cotton grows spontaneously & could be raised to any extent & there are excellent streams for propelling machinery. And it need not be said that as civilization increases cotton cloth will be in great demand. It is so now.

The climate, as was hinted at before, is healthy. The islands are constantly fanned by the trade winds except occasionally during a few storms in the winter season. The range of the Thermometer is not great compared with what it is in higher latitudes. This refers however to the sea shore. Or going back from the sea, or in other words, on ascending the mountains, all the varieties of climate are found from the torrid to the frigid zone. Like the heat is enervating to persons from colder climates. There does not seem to be anything in the climate predisposing to any particular disease.

At present, it may be said, the nation has no commerce. A few years ago, they engaged somewhat in commerce, but in a single article only, that of sandal wood. Since the sandal wood has disappeared, they have done nothing further in the business. From the attempts that have been made, it is plain that whatever the productions of the islands may hereafter be, the Hawaiians will not be the carriers. It is difficult to tell what the state of commerce will be, as it is impossible to tell what course civilization will take as it advances. Cotton seems to be the only article that could be raised immediately for a foreign market. Merchants have heretofore disposed of many goods mostly for cash. Cash is brought here by the whale ships which recruit at the islands every Spring & fall to the number of about 150. These recruits consist of sweet potatoes, some Irish potatoes, yams, squashes, onions, cabbages, some corn, beans, goats, turkies, hogs, fowls &c. &c. and the variety is annually increasing.

Respecting the civil & political affairs of the islands I said something in the former part of this letter. It is difficult to go into detail on these points. The Hawaiians have a regular government and as energetic as could be expected when we consider their character. It is now like all governments when in

the act of undergoing a great change. Old customs and institutions are changing because the minds of the people are changing; & it will be a long time before the people become so enlightened and virtuous that it may be said, the Kingdom stands firmly. Still, with the blessing of God on the means now in operation to enlighten the minds of the people such an event may be hoped for, should the nation be left to itself. Whether that will be permitted, time alone must determine. The Government may at present be stiled a Despotic Aristocratical Government.

Of the probable reception of a colony, it is difficult to speak. Something like this may be the state of the case. The Chiefs would probably be unfriendly but & depon though they might permit a colony to land & remain. The common people would rejoice in it; and yet the common people are much attached to their chiefs. The Chiefs have much to lose, the common people have nothing to lose, and they do actually gain something, as it respects prosperity from their intercourse with foreigners. One thing appears certain, the Chiefs would not welcome a colony here, whatever might be their pretentions. It seems therefore that the only way in which a colony would be successful would be by previous negotiation.

Without a negotiation, one of the following

difficulties or a modification of them would probably be the result.

✓ First. On the landing of the colonists, they will, to all intents & purposes become subjects of the government — choose some chief as a protector &c. In such a case, lands would be assigned & privileges granted, both liable however to be taken away at any moment; but if continued, such enormous taxes would be assessed & such restrictions laid as utterly to prevent, not only the accumulation of property, but to render the colonists the mere vassals of the chief, and hence utterly unable to benefit the nation either by precept or example. This we see every day; for the vassalage or slavery of the people to the chiefs is most destructive in its influence to improvement of all kinds. And no people natives or foreigners can be happy while it exists.

✓ Secondly. Another plan would be, on the arrival of a colony or previously by purchase, contract or otherways to obtain the full possession of an island or a part of an island, sufficient at least, for the support of the colony, and commence the settlement as an independant government, with its own laws and regulations. It is easy to see that such a plan would not benefit the people directly, as there would be but little communication be-

tween the two governments. The example, however, of a community of industrious, virtuous freemen, who should daily act upon moral & religious principles, could not but be very salutary. Such a sight would be a great curiosity to a Hawaiian. In this indirect way therefore, a colony would be useful, if the difficulty of procuring a tract of land & living as an independant government could be got over. On the first mentioned plan, it does not appear how anything good could be effected. As far as human instrumentality is concerned, we owe most of our ability to do good here to our independance of the Chiefs. As we are supported by the friends of missions, we are able to live with or without their aids, hence they do not attempt to starve us into subjection as they do their own people. Were we dependant on them for support, as their own people are, our influence would soon be small.

It ought also to be stated that the islands under good cultivation would sustain an immense population probably millions. It is not certain whether the native inhabitants are at this time increasing or diminishing. It is certain they cannot increase much during the present generation, even if they should from this time forth become a virtuous people.

√ Copd There is a field of usefulness for pious me-

chanics of various kinds, but in order to do good they must come very much on the principle of missionaries, not expecting or wishing to get rich, but to do good to an ignorant & degraded people. Their support ought to be ensured at home, & whatever they might make here credited & if a surplus, the proceeds to return to the society or institution that supports them. They should be men of sterling principle & thoroughly acquainted with their business. Such will need all the christian graces in frequent exercise in order to sustain them in the trials they would meet with. They would probably obtain a comfortable subsistance, and their moral & religious character would have a powerful influence.

I might extend these remarks still farther, but probably I have said enough. You will see from the tenor of the foregoing remarks that an "Appeal" made by me or any one of the Mission to the Laymen of the U.S. on the subject of a colony; would be altogether out of place at the present time. If such a thing as a colony is seriously contemplated, it will be best by all means & first of all to negotiate with the Chiefs on the subject. Otherwise a colony would have no more right to land here than a colony of Georgians to enter and settle in the territory of the Cherokees. But perhaps all this is understood; if so, my remarks will of

course go for nothing. I have taken it for granted that the islands were considered by you as accessible to every body & that the government would, as a matter of course, favour the scheme of a colony. It should be remembered however that despotic governments are jealous of their rights & tenacious of all their possessions, & hence unlike the U.S. do not extend their arms & welcome all that approach.

Wishing you prosperity brethren especially in spiritual things I subscribe myself

Yours in the bonds of the gospel

Lorrin Andrews

N.B. If Providence permits I hope to find time soon to reply to some other enquiries of yours though it may be several months

L. A.

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Society of Enquiry on
Missions Theological
Seminary Princeton
N. Jersey

Thos Coit to E 1838.

Rec'd May 5th 1838.